IN THE CLAIMS

This claim listing replaces all prior claim listings:

1. – 26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display device comprising:

a microlens provided on a luminous flux incidence side of the liquid crystal display device;

a liquid crystal panel, the liquid crystal panel having a first rubbing direction on a luminous flux emission side and a different second rubbing direction on a luminous flux incidence side; and

a first optical compensation layer and a second optical compensation layer, each of the first and second optical compensation layers being made of an inorganic material, formed in a flat plate-like shape, and having an optical axis inclined with respect to a surface of the liquid crystal panel, the optical axis having a direction of inclination, the first optical compensation layer being positioned on a luminous flux emission side of the liquid crystal panel, and the second optical compensation layer being positioned on the luminous flux incidence side of the liquid crystal panel, the liquid crystal panel being positioned between the first optical compensation layer and the second optical compensation layer,

wherein,

the inorganic material of each of the first and second optical compensation layers is cut out so that the direction of inclination of the optical axis of each of the first and second optical compensation layers is substantially equal to the first rubbing direction or to the second rubbing direction of the liquid crystal panel.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) The liquid crystal display device of claim 27, wherein the inorganic material forming the first optical compensation layer is uniaxial crystal.

30. (Previously Presented) The liquid crystal display device of claim 29, wherein

$\Delta n*d$, which is the product of refractive index anisotropy Δ and thickness d of the inorganic material forming the first optical compensation layer, is 640 nm or less.

31. (Previously Presented) The liquid crystal display device of claim 27, wherein the inorganic material forming the first optical compensation layer is crystal or sapphire.

32. (Previously Presented) The liquid crystal display device of claim 31, wherein $\Delta n*d$, which is the product of refractive index anisotropy Δ and thickness d of the inorganic material forming the first optical compensation layer, is 640 nm or less.

33. – 37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) The liquid crystal display device of claim 27, wherein the angle of inclination of at least one of the first and second optical compensation layers is approximately 75° to 85°.

39. (Previously Presented) The liquid crystal display device of claim 38, wherein the angle of inclination of at least one of the first and second optical compensation layers is approximately 80°.

40. (Previously Presented) The image display apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein at least one of the first and second optical compensation layers has an outer size equal to or larger than an effective display area of the liquid crystal panel.

41. (Currently Amended) An image display apparatus comprising:

a light source;

a liquid crystal display device having a microlens array provided on a luminous flux incidence side as a spatial light modulator;

an illuminating optical system for guiding a luminous flux emitted from a light source to the liquid crystal display device and thus illuminating the liquid crystal display device; and

an image-forming lens for forming an image of the liquid crystal display device,

wherein,

the liquid crystal display device includes a liquid crystal panel, the liquid crystal panel having a first rubbing direction on a luminous flux emission side and a different second rubbing direction on a luminous flux incidence side, a first optical compensation layer and a second optical compensation layer, each of the first and second optical compensation layers being made of an inorganic material, formed in a flat plate-like shape, and having an optical axis inclined with respect to a surface of the liquid crystal panel, the optical axis having a direction of inclination, the first optical compensation layer being positioned on a luminous flux emission side of the liquid crystal panel, and second optical compensation layer being positioned on the luminous flux incidence side of the liquid crystal panel, the liquid crystal panel being positioned between the first optical compensation layer and the second optical compensation layer, and the inorganic material of each of the first and second optical compensation layers is cut out so that the direction of inclination of the optical axis of each of the first and second optical compensation layers is substantially equal to the first rubbing direction or to the second rubbing direction of the liquid crystal panel, and the first and second optical compensation layers are arranged on the luminous flux emission side or on the luminous flux incidence side to compensate for a corresponding pre-tilt of the liquid crystal panel.

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Previously Presented) The image display apparatus of claim 41, wherein $\Delta n*d$, which is the product of refractive index anisotropy Δ and thickness d of the inorganic material forming the first optical compensation layer, is 640 nm or less.

44. – 45. (Cancelled)

46. (Previously Presented) The image display apparatus of claim 41, wherein the angle of inclination of at least one of the first and second optical compensation layers is approximately 75° to 85°.